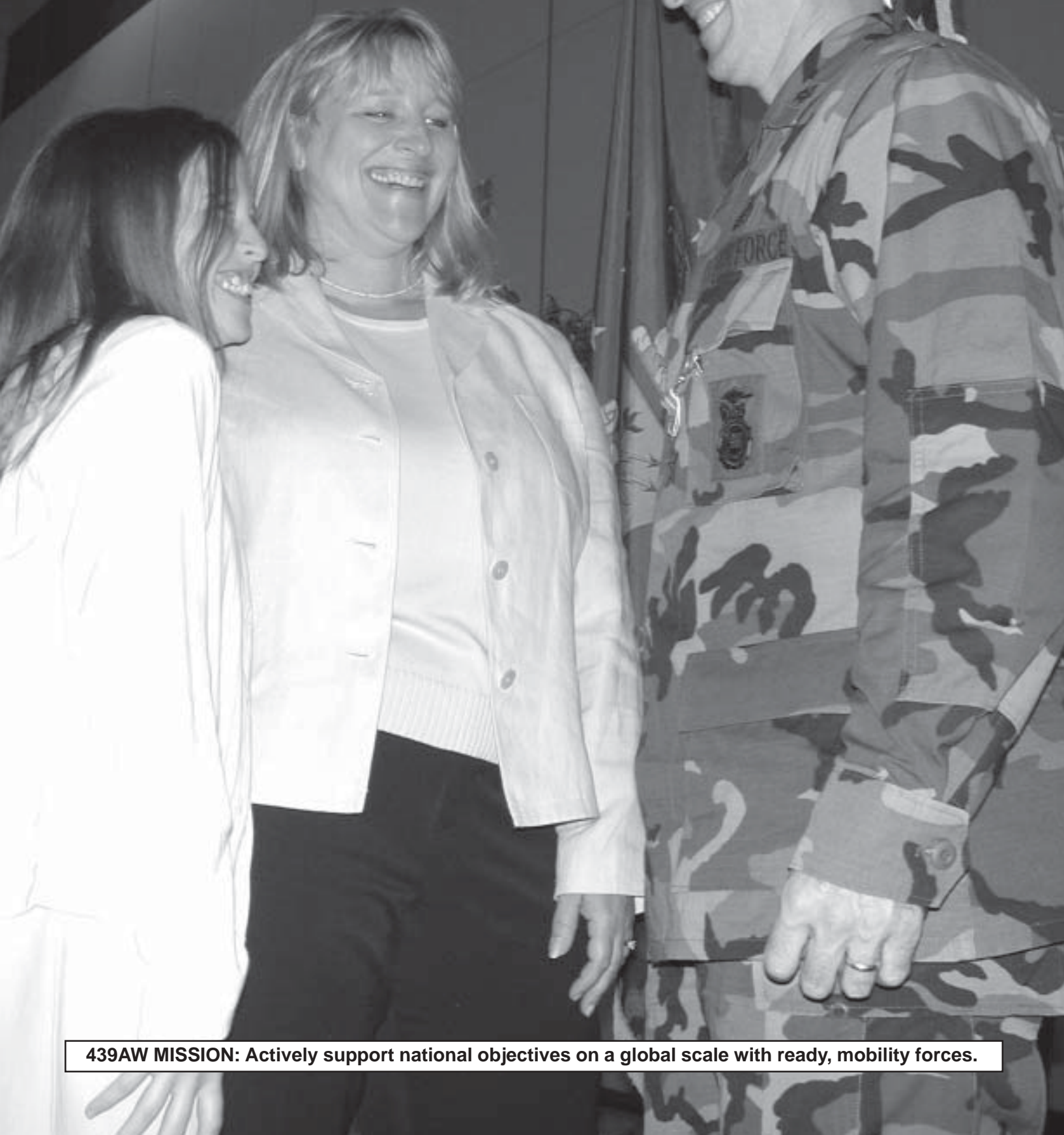


PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base
July 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 7



439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.



COMMANDER
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225-5310

15 May 2003

Brigadier General Martin M. Mazick
Commander
439th Airlift Wing
100 Lloyd Street, East Wing, Suite 100
Westover AFB, Massachusetts 01022-1825

Dear General Mazick *MALTY* -

The extraordinary contributions of the Air Force Reserve and your organization to the Global War on Terrorism cannot be overstated. Without your support, Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM could not have succeeded.

The 439th Airlift Wing has long been an essential part of mobility support to the warfighter, but your great people took it to an entirely new level for OIF. In the first four months of this year, you flew 179 missions, including 110 OIF missions carrying more than 5,937 tons of cargo and 2,409 passengers. Also, you supported 619 missions on the ground, including 482 flown by other units. Incredible! You can be proud of your achievements.

Please convey my personal thanks to each member of your unit and accept my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely

John W. Handy
JOHN W. HANDY
General, USAF

Briefs

Split disbursement now mandatory

Mandatory split disbursement now requires Air Force travelers to separately identify travel card charges on their travel claims and directly disburse those amounts to their Bank of America account, said Daniel J. McCarthy, Westover financial services officer.

Split disbursement simplifies the payment process for travelers, and assures on time payment resulting in fewer delinquencies.

For more information, call McCarthy at Ext. 3460.

Uniform required for travel within CONUS

Air Mobility Command has directed its gained reservists to resume the wear of any combination blue service uniform when traveling on commercial flights in the continental United States.

For more information, call the military personnel flight's customer service at Ext. 3874.

Parent Pin program has web site address

The Parent Pin program, launched last month to thank parents of airmen for supporting their military service, has a web site. It is www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com.

Westover's local point of contact for the Parent Pin program is CCMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin, 439th AW Command Chief Master Sergeant. He may be reached at Ext. 2214.

Cover photo

Bronze Star recipient Maj. Timothy S. Donnelly, chief of force protection for the 439th SFS, is congratulated by his wife, Jane, and daughter, Laura, following the June

Commander's Call. The major earned the prestigious award for his tour of duty in Afghanistan from January to July 2002.

This was the first time in 10 years that a Westover reservist has earned the Bronze Star.

— photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

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Security forces step onto American soil after six months

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Patrick Grady is wearing "his" Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with glowing pride. Patrick may even take the blue and yellow ribbon to "Show and Tell" at kindergarten.

Along with a hug that swept him off the ground, six-year-old Patrick was pinned with the Expeditionary Medal by his dad, SMSgt. Michael Grady, who came home on May 6 from an Iraqi Freedom desert air base. Patrick almost dropped his "Welcome Home Daddy" sign.

Grady, who served six months at the air base, came home to a Westover welcome with fellow 439th Security Forces Squadron members TSgt. Christopher Mazzei and SSgt. John Shepard. TSgt. Michael Serrichio and SSgt. Joseph Wilkinson had come home earlier from serving with the security forces at the desert base in the AOR. The celebration of the return home of the three security specialists was filmed for the local news by both Springfield television stations, 22 and 40.

More deployed security police specialists returned to Westover on May 18 and June 4.

The Westover security police served with the 363rd Expeditionary SFS providing security at the housing area known as Coalition Complex, and the air field operations area, located a number of miles away. The housing compound is surrounded by fence topped by concertina wire and wooden watchtowers staffed by security police.

The security specialists patrolled the desert in two- and four-member fire teams in "up-armored" Humvees, with additional armor and a mounted M-60.

Grady described the patrols as "just like driving on the moon." There are very few landmarks to find your way and the security police wore night vision goggles. During the winter months the temperature dropped fast at night, making it cold enough to need gloves. Desert foxes - tiny and tan - scorpions and camel spiders are part of the landscape.

Grady served as a flight sergeant, conducting an 11 p.m. guard mount each night. Shepard worked with him. Mazzei was responsible for



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

FAMILIAR GROUND - Above, Westover security specialists step foot on American soil on May 18 for the first time after six months in the Iraqi Freedom AOR. Maj. Maryann Lutz, squadron commander, led the 11-member team during their deployment. Below left, SMSgt. Michael P. Grady is welcomed home from his deployment by Patrick Grady, his six-year-old son.

checking on the effectiveness and reinforcing physical security, such as jersey barriers and concertina wire. Others duties of the security forces were bus escort, patrolling the fence line and guarding storage areas and assets in the air field operations area.

The air operations included F-15 and F-16 and RAF Tornados. Also serving at the base were airmen of the Royal Australian Air Force and French Air Force. When the Patriot Wing security police arrived in November the expeditionary force was conducting Southern Watch operations.

Their arrival coincided with a dramatic surge in flying operations. The population of the base doubled and people lived three members to a room, with two sharing a bunk bed.

"We watched the base evolve from Southern Watch into Iraqi Freedom in a very short period of time. There were more planes, more equipment. They built a tent city. All

branches of the military were represented there in huge numbers," Grady said.

"Planes were taking off loaded with munitions and coming back empty. There were more sorties, more munitions movement," he said.

Reserve and Guard members made up about 70 percent of the security force. The slogan at the base was One Team, One Fight.

The active duty administration in the squadron appreciated the experience that the Reserve and Guard members brought to the team. Grady is a Massachusetts environmental police officer, Mazzei is a New York City police officer and Shepard is a police officer in New Hampton, N.H.

The security police were activated shortly after the 9/11 attacks. Grady and Shepard previously served three months overseas on Enduring Freedom missions.

Because the base is large and well established, living conditions were better than for most others in the Iraqi Freedom AOR. Four dining halls offered hot meals 24 hours a day. A learning resource center offered a library, computers and self-help programs from stress control classes to yoga and CLEP testing. Mazzei took advantage of the opportunities to complete his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at the desert base.

Entertainment included country and western, Latin and other dance nights, a first class gym, a large swimming pool and a Burger King, which was located in a trailer.



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

42nd changes command; veteran leader says goodbye

Article and photo
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Thomas G. Clark took command of the 42nd APS during a change of command ceremony held on the flight line May 30.

Lt. Col. James P. Carey, a 28-year Air Force Reserve veteran, relinquished command of the 42nd with a final and sharp salute.

Carey also delivered a heartfelt farewell speech to his "red hats" squadron that stood in formation in front of him. Emotion choked Carey's voice as he bid goodbye with words that left few dry eyes in the audience.

"Together we have built a team and a family that at this point in time I would match up against any other aerial port – active duty, Guard or Reserve, and we all know who would come out on top," Carey said.

"As I look back over the last seven years, I can truly say I have never worked with a finer group of individuals that have lived up to their squadron motto of 'Pride and Professionalism' as have the members of the 42nd."

Carey led the 42nd to unprecedented honors earlier this year. Air Mobility Command officials chose the squadron as AMC's best reserve component aerial port for 2002.

Clark's selection as commander followed a stint as officer in charge of the squadron's air terminal operations center (ATOC), the nerve center for directing cargo operations on the base.

By the end of May, Westover's aerial por-

ters had processed more than 6,340 passengers and more than 23,685,000 pounds of cargo since Feb. 2.

"We thrive on this type of environment," Clark said, adding he is proud of how hard the "red hats" work to make the mission happen. "They love to come out and perform," he said.

Carey packed up his Hangar 3 office at his own pace into the late afternoon on May 30.

"I wanted to wait until the last minute," he said with a smile, as he took a break from loading up some boxes. "It's indicative of the fact that it's over."



NEW ERA - Maj. Thomas G. Clark takes command of the 42nd APS from Lt. Col. James P. Carey as he salutes Col. Dana S. Marsh, 439th Mission Support Group commander, on May 30. The squadron's change of command ceremony was held on the flight line in front of a C-5. Thomas is the former officer in charge of the 42nd's air terminal operations center (ATOC). Carey served 28 years in the Air Force Reserve.

Westover among nine AFRC bases to be renamed 'JARB'

Westover will be among nine Air Force Reserve Command installations nationwide to be redesignated a joint base this summer to reflect the multi-service use of the base's facilities.

Besides the home for the host 439th Airlift Wing, the base houses units of the Marines, Navy and Army.

"This name change reflects the true nature of what Westover has become," said Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander. "As a training base our mission is broader than just the 439th Airlift Wing and the C-5s. We are home to reserve units from every service and have become New England's largest multi-service installation."

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, AFRC commander, initiated the change. At his suggestion, the civil engineer at Headquarters AFRC completed a survey of the installations where the command is the host and determined nine locations qualify for joint status.

"The primary change is simply to insert 'joint' in the installation

title," said Thomas Hovey, chief of civil engineer operations at Headquarters AFRC. "No other relationships will change."

"We are compiling data from the installations and plan to submit one package to the Air Staff," he said. "Our goal is to publish special orders and complete the process by July 31."

Westover's tenant reserve units include Marine Corps Support Squadron Six; Marine Corps Support 474, Detachment B; a Massachusetts National Guard aviation support unit; the United States Armed Forces Reserve Center; a Reserve Readiness and Mobility Squadron; TOW Platoon HQ 4th Marine Division; the 226th Transportation Company (U.S. Army Reserve) and an office of the Defense Logistics Agency.

The name change is the second in Westover's 63-year history.

It was the first base to be operated by the Air Force Reserve in 1974 after the last active duty forces departed. In 1992 Westover AFB was redesignated Westover Air Reserve Base.

"As a training base our mission is broader than just the 439th Airlift Wing and the C-5s. We are home to reserve units from every service and have become New England's largest multi-service installation."

- Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander

Aerial porters complete two-week tour at Andersen

by Maj. John P. Mailo
58th APS deployed OIC

A team of 20 aerial porters of the 58th APS completed two weeks of duty at Andersen AFB, Guam, working along side the transporters of the 734th Air Mobility Squadron in April. Working with the 734th AMS in Guam provided premier training with state of the art facilities that afford supervisors the opportunity to assess and measure aerial porters' experience and knowledge.

Andersen AFB is the major AMC enroute station for all cargo and passengers transiting the Pacific theater. The strategic importance of Andersen was magnified with the closing of Clark AB in the Philippines 12 years ago.

It is true that for 103 years Guam is where America's day begins. Sunny days, bright blue skies, gentle trade winds and crystal clear waters are the hallmarks of Guam. Even the threat of Typhoon Kujira could not dampen the spirits of the 58th APS. Fortunately, it passed harmlessly 140 miles south of the island.

The large number of aircraft transiting Andersen allowed the Patriot Wing aerial porters to hone their skills and learn to resolve potential problems with aircraft with which they do not normally work, including KC-10s, KC-135s, C-17s and C-9s.

In addition, the variety of commercial cargo airframes, including MD-11, 747, DC-10 and DC-8, provided excellent training for the aerial porters to rediscover skills that are not used on a daily basis at Westover.

The 58th APS was integrated into all facets of the 734th AMS Passenger Service Terminal, Air Terminal Operations Center and Air Freight Services.

A bonus of the trip was that six squadron members were certified on the 60K aircraft loader. The 60K loader is the mainstay of the material handling of equipment fleet and required for all transporters. The comprehensive two-week course includes academic instruction in the fundamentals, maintenance and operation of the vehicle.

Certification on the new 25K Halverson loader was also provided. This was a win for the squadron MHE training and unit readiness. The classes allowed the aerial porters to maximize their training opportunities.

The tour was a homecoming of sorts for MSgt. Stephen Winters. His father was a Westover B-52 pilot who deployed to Guam during the Vietnam War and flew Arc Light bombing missions from Andersen's



photo by MSgt. Derek Ouimette

NO SWEAT - SSgt. Steven Rabel and TSgts. William Brown and Gerard Leamy, 58th APS, take a break from the hot sun at Andersen AFB, Guam, for a photo. They were among 20 58th APS members who completed two weeks of duty at the Pacific island base.

runways.

TSgt. Charles Allen was stationed at Andersen for 18 months and renewed old acquaintances. Winters and Allen could not believe how much the base had changed.

Last Dec. 8 super typhoon Pongsonga slammed ashore with 180 mph sustained winds and gusts of more than 240 mph. The typhoon stalled over Guam for 17 hours, dumping 15 inches of rain and causing \$121 million in damages.

Andersen suffered serious damage to many base facilities. The results were still evident when the 58th APS was on Guam. Roofs were torn off, buildings demolished and trees uprooted. Street signs were missing and the poles bent flat to the ground.

American Legion rallies to support Patriot Wing families

by Amn. Michael Lanza

The veterans of two Chicopee American Legion posts are showing their support for the troops by working with Westover's Family Support Center to help the Patriot Wing and other area military families.

In their most recent effort, members of American Legion Post 438, New Ludlow Rd., donated 100 teddy bears to children who at-

The American Legion's Massachusetts 9/11 program raised \$103,000 during Operation Enduring Freedom, \$16,000 of which was donated to Westover members through American Legion Post 275.

tended the Family Support Center's pajama party on March 23.

"Programs like the teddy bear campaign help children cope with the absence of their parents," said TSgt. Kimberly Babin of the support center. "It has tremendously helped with family morale."

American Legion Post 438 and Post 275 of Robbins Road have developed a close relationship with the Westover Family Support Center and the Pioneer Valley USO during the past two years in which troops have been called on to serve in the war on terrorism, Babin said.

Post 438 spearheaded a program called Operation Pillowcase when Westover members were deployed in 2002. The program used iron-on transfers to create pillowcases which displayed photos of deployed parents

for their children. The Legion donated 910 pillowcases and 460 iron-on transfer sheets to the Family Support Center.

The American Legion's Massachusetts 9/11 program raised \$103,000 during Operation Enduring Freedom, \$16,000 of which was donated to Westover members through American Legion Post 275. The grants were given to Westover reservists who were experiencing financial difficulties due to activation. They helped families pay rent, medical and auto insurance, utilities and child related expenses.

"The American Legion's programs are just another example of a growing bond between Westover and community groups, helping to accomplish difficult missions while ensuring the well-being of Patriot Wing families. Without such support from our friends, our job would be vastly more difficult," Babin said.

The 439th AW Public Affairs staff is preparing an upcoming *Patriot* edition devoted to the base's contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reservists, their family members, and civilian employees are encouraged to submit stories. For more information, call (413) 557-2020 or e-mail us at: Patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

337th AS aircrews know it's a long way to the AOR

Article and photos
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Being on the front line of the Iraqi Freedom airlift is such serious business that if you didn't speak lightly about it you couldn't keep doing it day after day.

When a 337th Airlift Squadron aircrew talks about destinations, they're not going to the Iraqi Freedom AOR, they are going to the "beach", or the "sandbox" or the "big beach." If you are flying empty, you're carrying "sailboat fuel", when you are carrying cargo needed in the AOR, you're "hauling trash." "Crew dogs wearing bags" translates to crew members in flight suits. Sarcasm, humor and understatement will keep you going when you've been eating fast food, waiting for buses, sleeping sitting up and can't remember how many hours from Zulu you are in your current time zone.

"Where are you taking us today, sir," a Patriot Wing aircrew member asked his aircraft commander, Maj. Changkun Moon recently at Ramstein AB, Germany. "We're going to the garden spot," was the answer.

Like a good aircrew member, the aircraft commander stuffed a lot of meaning into an understatement. Understood between the two crew members was that when the bus arrived they would go out to the C-5 and kick off an around-the-clock workday, fly more than 2,500 miles across the Alps, the Mediterranean Sea and desert, land twice at Iraqi Freedom AOR bases, study charts, worry about the weather, monitor fuel, engine and electric gauges, wrestle with maintenance problems, unload and load tons

of cargo and then wait in the dark somewhere for another bus to take them to a barracks to try to get some sleep to be strong enough to do it all again. And that was only if everything went right.

There was nothing special about the recent seven-day mission of Moon and his augmented crew of 12 others. They were a cross section of all the 337th AS crews. It was one more mission in a series that started when a Westover crew flew emergency vehicles from California to New York City on Sept. 11, 2001 before Enduring Freedom had a name.

Moon wears an Enduring Freedom patch on his flight jacket. In the month before the mission he had flown down range four times. During one 20-day period he clocked 130 flying hours.

"It builds on you after a while," he said. Of the effect on his wife, daughter and son, he said, "on an airline they always know where you are...they know within a few hours when you will be home. On stage missions they don't know when you are coming home."

"A good stick, good hands," is how MSgt. Paul Benson, loadmaster, expresses respect for the flying abilities of the aircraft commander.

"He takes care of his people...all our pilots are like that, right along with the crew. People in the squadron respect each other for their competence," he said. "And don't forget SMSgt. Karen Scott's admin section...the administrators work hard...they make sure everything's covered," Benson said.

Of the mission, he says, "it's long days, but we know people depend on us...so it's kind of rewarding at the same time...there's a lot of camaraderie."

The aircrew covers a range of experience. Benson came to Westover 29 years ago, flying C-123s. "It seems like yesterday."

2nd Lt. David Quinn came out of C-5 school in January.

After a year and a half of training to be pilot, he is still impressed by the professionalism of the enlisted aircrew members. "These guys here know so much about the airplane, it's incredible how much they know," he said of air crew members who were flying Just Cause and Desert Storm missions while he was in high school in Plymouth.

Capt. Allyn Taylor flew UH-60 helicopters for eight years in the Army and HA 60s for four years in the Air Force. From 1998 to 2001 he flew Northern Watch search and rescue missions in Turkey. This is his first operational flight as a C-5 pilot. Like Quinn, he is awed by the magnitude of the new job. The flight engineers and the loadmasters have to know an amazing amount...the complexity is incredible. One of my goals at Altus was to know the engines like a flight engineer. I didn't realize how big a task that



WORKING UP A SWEAT - Loadmaster SrA. Jeffrey Gilbert shows the strain of a long workday.

would be," Taylor said.

Learning never stops. MSgt. Tom Mellor is undergoing a periodic evaluation of the loadmaster skills he has practiced since 1986. SMSgt. Garth Parker peppers him with questions during upload, download, preflight, through flight, post flight. "Being an aircrew member is not the life of Riley," says Mellor.

Meanwhile, MSgt. Chris Maille, 19 years' service, shadows SrA. Jeff Gilbert, fresh out of C-5 school. "Latch the strap. Pop the strap. Start it over. All right that's

"It's long days. You don't know where your next meal is going to come from. It's a treat getting a chance to go to the commissary."

- TSgt. Mark Schmitter, 337th AS loadmaster

good," he instructs as part of OJT.

Maille moves among the pallets, eyeing them expertly, with no wasted movement, spotting a broken lock, rechainning a load that is not delivered to the plane to his satisfaction.

On the flight deck, flight engineer SMSgt. Glenn Flynn checks and double checks the thrust in an engine. He checks the history of the engine and consults with
see AOR on page 7



ANOTHER LONG DAY - A weary aircrew member makes his way to a barracks at an Iraqi Freedom air base after a long workday.

439th ASTS joins medical effort for war at Ramstein

(EDITOR'S NOTE: SrA. T.R. Ouellette, 439th AW Public Affairs office, recently spent several days at Ramstein AB, Germany, and provided an account of the deployed Westover reservists there. Security guidelines prohibit using last names of deployed reservists.)

**Article and photo
by SrA. T.R. Ouellette**

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany

— Fifteen Westover medical specialists are serving in a rare, real-world mission at this major European base.

They are part of the 86th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) that is the first of its kind since Operation Desert Storm in 1991, according to officials with the 86th Airlift Wing, the host unit at Ramstein.

Members of the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and 70 medical specialists from McGuire AFB, N.J., are working with the 86th Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein. Together the triad has transported and treated more than 1,000 troops since March 31, the first day the CASF began accepting patients.

The Westover-McGuire reservists needed only eight days since arriving here to convert the Southside Sports Center into a fully operational 100-bed staging facility.

"We became a seamless team of an active duty host and reservists," said Westover's Col. Marc, the 86th CASF commander. "Together we always



SrA. Patrick treats a leg wound while SSgt. Jose watches. Both airmen are members of the 439th ASTS deployed to Ramstein.

had the quality of patient care at the forefront of our minds. We never lost focus."

Injured troops from Operation Iraqi Freedom originally receive care from the Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility, located a few miles from Ramstein. It is the largest American hospital outside the

United States. After getting the necessary care from the hospital, the CASF people can take over and provide routine care for them until a flight home is arranged. The CASF can maintain patients for up to 72 hours.

While the Air Force created the CASF from different units, it has operated flawlessly, said McGuire's Capt. Cindy, a staff nurse.

"We (the CASF) came together for a special purpose, and that purpose binds us together and makes us work as one," she said. "Everyone acted as professionals and got the job done."

Capt. Cindy talked most about the satisfaction that comes from serving her country during a real-world deployment.

"To not only serve mankind medically, but to also serve our country, is such an honor. This is one of the highlights of my life," she said.

The 86th CASF's efforts didn't go unnoticed. Col. David A. Rubenstein, commander of Landstuhl Hospital, praised the triad's role in ensuring American troops received the best quality

health care.

"Landstuhl is only one part of medical care our troops get. The American people should know that the troops are getting the highest level of medical care always, from care on the field to care at the recovery hospital," he said. "The 86 CASF is an essential part of the process."

AOR continued from page 6

SMSgt. Ken Gilbert. Maintenance is called to fix a problem with the autopilot. "Ox check!" comes over the PA system and a klaxon rings out. "Fire check!" and the klaxon rings again.

Just before takeoff there is a drop in the noise level when the air conditioning is turned off. "Starting number one," Moon says, and presses a red button which opens a valve which starts the first engine. Capt. Gregg Southworth sits to his right. "Starting number two," Moon says and the rumble increases another level.

It's part of the rhythm of the workday. "It's long days. You don't know where your next meal is going to come from. It's a treat getting a chance to go to the commissary," said TSgt. Mark Schmitter. TSgt. Carlos Correa recently spent 21 similar days in an Iraqi Freedom stage. "It's been almost two years we've been doing this. It's now almost normal. What would not be normal to others — a 24 hour day — is normal to us," says Correa.

ASTS reservists look after Lynch

by SrA. T.R. Ouellette

Two medical specialists from the 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron had a role in caring for Operation Iraqi Freedom's most famous prisoner-of-war, PFC Jessica Lynch.

The 19-year-old Lynch from West Virginia became the buzz of America because of reports of an Iraqi ambush on her unit, her subsequent capture, and her dramatic rescue.

Both Maj. Mark and SrA. Patrick are serving with the 86th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein Air Base where Lynch was sent to for treatment after her emancipation.

Maj. Mark said he traveled in the ambulance with her from the Landstuhl Regional Military Hospital to Ramstein. Patrick said he carried the litter (stretcher)

holding Lynch while she was being transported from an aircraft to hospital.

It is admittedly routine medical assistance they performed on Lynch, no different than the treatment they have given to hundreds of other troops since their arrival at Ramstein. But due to the heavy media attention devoted to Lynch, it was far from routine.

Patrick discovered his face was on every television news broadcast back home.

"When I called my mom almost immediately after assisting Lynch she told me I was on every TV station. I couldn't believe it," Patrick said.

"I was just doing my job. She was just one of the many litters (stretchers) we moved that night," Patrick said. "I never even knew we would be handling her."

Patriot Portraits



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

WESTOVER SNAPSHOTS - Clockwise: Col. Thomas A. Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, shows Meredith Sullivan, a Boston Celtics community relations intern, the flight deck of a C-5 as part of a goodwill gesture after the team donated 400 tickets to a game for Westover reservists to see in Boston in April; base and congressional officials celebrate the opening of Bldgs. 5104 and 5105, two renovated dormitories. The officials are, from left, Pedro Santiago, lodging manager; Chris Menard, chief of services; William Scully, deputy district engineer, Army Corps of Engineers; Congressman Richard Neal; Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander; Chicopee Mayor Richard J. Kos; and Joseph Bondi, vice president of TLT Construction Corp.; Ed Sierzego, Mauzaka, and Richard Hebert begin the groundbreaking of the new pavilion behind wing headquarters; troops returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom are greeted by Mazick and the base leadership as they step off a C-5.



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

Loose papers from briefcase point to urgency of OPSEC

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Some important documents fell into the right hands recently when an alert Westover security police patrol spotted the papers strewn along a base fenceline.

The papers, apparently from a loose briefcase, were brought to Capt. Peter J. Holmsten, a Westover intelligence officer. The unclassified information included aircraft maintenance records and blueprints on critical base areas.

Holmsten delivered the information to a Crisis Action Team meeting to remind people of the importance of operations security (OPSEC).

"We don't know what blew over the fence," Holmsten said. "It was unclassified information, but we still need to be aware of these incidents."

Since operations are the heart of what the Air Force mission is all about, virtually everything done on base and off-base must incorporate good OPSEC habits, said Maj. Ian S. Coogan, wing OPSEC officer. And he reminded everyone that good OPSEC habits aren't just about talking carefully.

"Our adversaries can put together bits of

Good OPSEC

- *Shred all sensitive documents before throwing them in a trash can*
- *Be mindful of what is written in e-mails to higher headquarters, co-workers, and family members, and of what is said over unsecure lines, cell phones and two-way radios*
- *For more tips, call Maj. Ian S. Coogan, wing OPSEC officer, at Ext. 2167*

information," Coogan said. "They can figure out what our whole mission is. It doesn't have to be classified information, either. Bits of unclassified information can reveal sensitive operational details."

OPSEC isn't just intended for military members. It includes military families too. Conveniences like cell phones offer the high technology that many people might take for granted, but a lot of these types of phones are used on frequencies that are available on scanners.

Family members should not discuss where their spouse may be going if he or she is ex-

pected to go on temporary duty.

The Internet can provide sensitive information to adversaries as well. "Anything on a web site – once it is out on the Net – anyone can take control of it," Coogan said. "You lose control once it's on the Internet."



Coogan

Many of Westover's neighbors may already know of operations at the base too, as many facets of the mission rely on conventional two-way radios that are easily accessible through legal means. Modern scanners monitor everything from air traffic control, to police operations, and other government agencies.

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, said keeping sensitive information to ourselves and shredding are among the most important OPSEC reminders.

"Information is power. We need it to do our jobs the best we can," Mazick said. "Others need it to keep us from doing our job. Let's make sure we keep it to ourselves. When in doubt – shred!"

Northwest Region of Civil Air Patrol meets monthly

The Northeast Region of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), an auxiliary of the Air Force, is assigned to Westover.

CAP has three missions, Aerospace Education, the Cadet Program and Search and Rescue. The Northeast Region is made up of the nine northeast states and meets on the second Saturday of the month at 281 Starlifter Avenue. Col. Richard A. Greenhut is the region commander.

CAP is a nonprofit organization with more than 64,000 members nationwide. Under Emergency Services, CAP performs more than 95 percent of all inland search and rescue in the United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. An average of 100 lives are saved each year, said Lt. Col. Constance M. O'Grady, Northeast Region Public Affairs Officer.

Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to over 27,500 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years.

CAP also assists the Air Force with such missions as light transportation and low-altitude route surveys. For more information, contact O'Grady at (732) 752-5252.

SECURITY continued from page 3

On the down side, there was no opportunity to leave the area of Coalition Complex and the air field during the six months. Outside the fence of Coalition Complex you could see lights at night but only flat desert landscape during the day.

Between the complex and air field, palm trees along the roads were watered by underground irrigation pipes. The monotonous brown/tan color of everything – buildings, uniforms and sand – soon made everyone wish to see the colors of New England and the civilian world.

Humor and flexibility got people through the day. "People tend to tolerate more than at home. You have to have a thick skin. There's a lot

of people working together in close proximity," Grady said.

He missed the simple things in life the most, small children, grass, and trees. He missed six months of holidays and his son's birthday and the great Italian cooking of his wife, Concetta.

Iraqi Freedom meant sacrifice, but what the security police brought home from the AOR was something they will always keep with them.

"The thing that was amazing was watching so many people come together, all branches of the military, for the common good. There was a lot of sacrifice. But, I'll be able to look back and say I was there for it," Grady said.

patriot puns

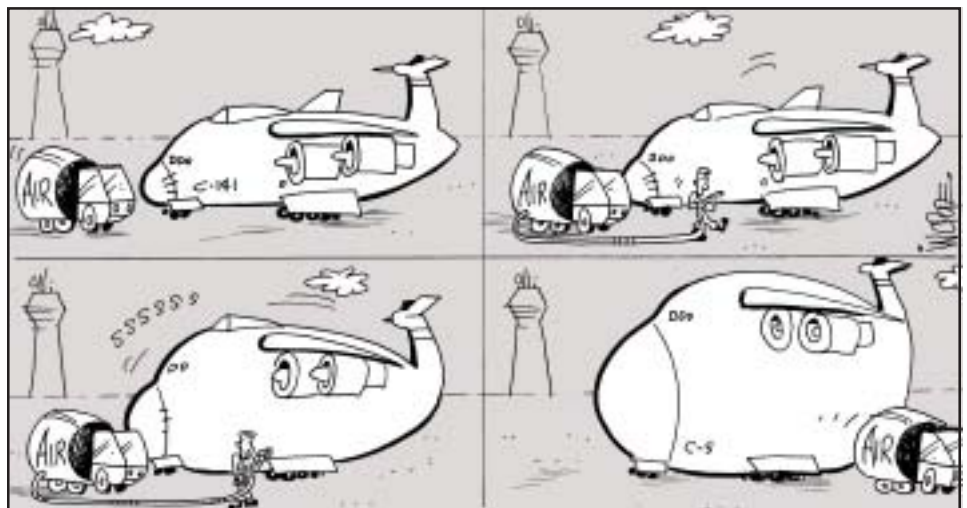




photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

U-2 transits base

QUICK STOP - The giant C-5s on the flight line frame a much smaller U-2 as it taxis to its parking spot after landing on May 15. U-2 pilots with the 9th Reconnaissance Wing based at Beale AFB, Calif., stop here periodically for refueling before heading home. The famous spy plane is among a record number of transient aircraft passing through Westover this year. More than 800 transient missions have arrived and departed monthly since January. Most of these flights have been C-5s supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom missions. Base operations officials said returning aircrews continue to cite Westover's reputation for its excellent facilities, maintenance, and service. Westover is the closest fully operational military facility to Europe. The base's main 11,600-foot runway is one of the longest on the East Coast.

Command sets policy for making up missed training

WASHINGTON - Air Force reservists who have been mobilized or demobilized or who served on voluntary military personnel appropriation tours in support of a contingency since Oct. 1 will not be required to perform an annual tour between now and Sept. 30.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of Air Force Reserve Command, approved a policy May 16 that exempts their annual tours and does not permit making up missed inactive duty for training days because of activation.

Unit reservists and individual mobilization augmentees, who return to reserve status and did not perform their annual tour, have until June 30 to request an annual tour be scheduled if they want to perform it.

Unit reservists make the request through their commander; IMAs go to their support organization. These reservists will receive "constructive credit" for missed inactive duty for training days.

Unit reservists on active-duty MPA or reserve personnel appropriation orders in support of contingency operations are considered constructively present and therefore ineligible to reschedule missed inactive duty for training days.

The situation varies for IMAs after demobilization. IMAs are allowed to begin performing four-hour IDTs again on a prorated basis. The number of IDTs they will be able to perform depends on when they are demobilized and the number of IDTs they normally perform during a year.

For example, if an IMA usually does 24 IDTs during a year and is demobilized June 15, he or she would perform six IDTs between July and September.

Command officials in Washington, D.C., said the participation policy for the fiscal year of Oct. 1, 2002, to Sept. 30, 2003, is designed to use available funds efficiently and to ensure people receive credit for time they served on active duty.

Reservists who have questions about this policy should contact their unit orderly rooms for more information.

(AFRC News Service)

Ceremony honors dedicated cadre of Westover volunteers

A ceremony held April 29 honored the dedication of the more than 60 volunteers who donate their time to Westover ARB.

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, honored this year's Volunteer of the Year, Frank Smith, who lives in Chicopee. Smith, a retired Air Force staff sergeant, has given hundreds of hours

helping staff the Pioneer Valley USO and the Retiree Affairs Office (RAO).

The following volunteers have also helped out in the USO and RAO, Space A, and with the base tour program.

Adams, James Lt. Col. (Ret.)	Dorko, John Lt. Col. (Ret.)
Adkins, Paul MSgt. (Ret.)	Driscoll, Clinton PC2 (Ret.)
Akins, Ronald CMSgt. (Ret.)	Fearn, Betty
Berube, Eugene SMSgt. (Ret.)	Flanagan, Harold CWO-4 (Ret.)
Bohan, Bill Lt. Col. (Ret.)	Flanagan, John SFC (Ret.)
Bohan, Dee	Foley, John SMSgt. (Ret.)
Buchmann, Les SMSgt.	Forsberg, Peter LCDR (Ret.)
Burbank, Darlene	Fowlow, Rex CMSgt. (Ret.)
Bussiere, Roger Maj. (Ret.)	Fugazzi, Gino Maj. (Ret.)
Chizmar, Thomas MSgt. (Ret.)	Garcia, Edward CPO (Ret.)
Condon, Martin MSgt. (Ret.)	Geran, Mr. and Mrs. John
Cortesi, Gino CWO-2 (Ret.)	Gesick, Donald SMSgt. (Ret.)
Cummings, Jeffrey MSgt. (Ret.)	Gesick, Theresa
Darling, Roy Col. (Ret.)	Gintowt, Charles CDR (Ret.)
Davis, Keith Capt. (Ret.)	Goodman, Benny MSgt. (Ret.)
Dion, Maurice Maj. (Ret.)	Goodrick, Jean
Dioron, Charlotte	Goodrick, Ron SFC (Ret.)

Gordon, Jean MSgt. (Ret.)
Grunder, Walt Capt. (Ret.)
Hughes, Edward Maj. (Ret.)
Isaacs, Bailey SMSgt. (Ret.)
Isaacs, Margaret
Jordan, Ray Col.
Kimball, John Lt. Col.
Knowles, Phil Cdr.
Kope, Helen
Langlois, Florence
Langone, Mafalda MSgt.
Lawrence, Ebner
Lewison, Walter LCDR (Ret.)
Lorsythe, Julia
Lucas, Larry MSgt. (Ret.)
Madamba, Ben SMSgt. (Ret.)
Madiera, Francis TSgt. (Ret.)

Malcolm, Anita
Malcolm, James MSgt. (Ret.)
McAvoy, Warren CMSgt. (Ret.)
McNamara, Bob LCDR (Ret.)
McNamara, Judith
Monzillo, Frank MSgt. (Ret.)
Morris, Edward CMSgt. (Ret.)
Mullarkey, Edward Maj. (Ret.)
Nagle, Ray Maj. (Ret.)
Norton, Raymond TSgt. (Ret.)
Nunziato, Michael MSgt. (Ret.)
Pozos, Robert TSgt. (Ret.)
Sallade, Fred Capt. (Ret.)
Smith, Frank SSgt. (Ret.)
Swanson, Greg MSgt. (Ret.)
Viglione, Vic CMSgt. (Ret.)

Patriot People

Name: Robert W. Thompson
Rank: Maj.
Age: 38
Address: Cape Cod
Unit: Wing plans office
Position: Logistics plans officer
Civilian position: Health care sales
Favorite food: Sushi
Years of service: 13
Favorite sport: Competitive bodybuilding
Favorite hobby: Home repair
Ideal vacation: Island in the Caribbean
Best way to relax: Sitting in the sun after a good workout
Preferred entertainment: Small social gatherings
Favorite hero: Colin Powell
Favorite music: Light jazz
Favorite movie: The Terminator
Favorite aircraft: C-21
Pet peeve: Know-it-alls
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Continue doing what I'm doing



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Robert W. Thompson

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

CMSgt. Missale, John M.
 CMSgt. Skalecki, Catherine J.
 SMSgt. Miller, Gary R.
 SMSgt. Parker, Garth O., Jr.
 SMSgt. White, Pamela J.N.
 MSgt. Bisson, Gary P.
 MSgt. Dupuis, Andrew J.
 MSgt. Grant, Anthony E.
 MSgt. Jackson, Barbara A.
 MSgt. Jesmonth, Jeffrey
 MSgt. Knight, Jeffrey D.
 MSgt. McEwan, Alexander H.
 MSgt. Pike, Gary W.
 MSgt. Plouff, Jacqueline M.
 MSgt. Porter, Charles E.
 MSgt. Rock, Robert J.
 TSgt. Chaffee, Todd A.
 TSgt. Chalmers, Michael C.
 TSgt. Creighton, Lesli A.
 TSgt. Farrington, Mark R.
 TSgt. Gonzalez, Louisa J.
 TSgt. Griffin, James Michael
 TSgt. Lojkuc, Henry C.
 TSgt. McKemmie, David A.
 TSgt. Patuano, Stephen J.
 TSgt. Sandoval, Rodolfo Jr.
 TSgt. St.Germain, Peter F.
 TSgt. Towlson, Richard J.
 TSgt. Vongphakdy, Bobby S.
 TSgt. Zanzanian, Moises
 SSgt. Bonaldi, Angela M.
 SSgt. Carlin, Charles F. III
 SSgt. Podkowska, Matthew D.
 SrA. Bayot, Joannalyn C.
 SrA. Dasilva, Michael D.

Enlistments:

A1C Abrams, Ryan E.
 A1C Butterworth, Joshua C.
 A1C Landry, Joseph
 A1C McConnell, Joanie L.
 A1C Schneider, Evan D.
 A1C Spivey, Jessica L.
 A1C Torres-Vargas, Jennifer

Assignments:

2nd Lt. Kleinebekel, Carl E.
 TSgt. Lepsch, Edward J.
 TSgt. Torres, Charles D.
 SSgt. Harnett, William R.
 SrA. Bassett, Adam B.
 SrA. Bissonnette, Jon N.
 SrA. Johnson, Rokisha N.

Retirements:

Maj. Barrientos, Elizabeth O.
 Capt. Kiralythomas, Christine E.
 CMSgt. Brosseau, Roy R.
 SMSgt. Covey, Kim
 SMSgt. Jamieson, Ralph A.
 SMSgt. Trychon, Albert F.
 SMSgt. Wentworth, Michael L.
 TSgt. Blake, Robert P.
 TSgt. Hoadley, Steven R.
 TSgt. Jensen, Marshall E.
 TSgt. Mercier, Arthur H.
 TSgt. Perno, Bradley T.
 TSgt. Perras, Anthony J.
 TSgt. Rockhill, George E.
 TSgt. Rosica, Peter

MSgt. Benoit, Ronald
 MSgt. Blackney, Richard H.
 MSgt. Bogard, Steve Jr.
 MSgt. Glahn, Julianna M.
 MSgt. Helems, James A., Jr.
 MSgt. McKemmie, Nancy A.
 MSgt. Rock, Robert J.
 MSgt. Wurszt, Richard

Airman Leadership School

SrA. Timothy G. Sutton Jr., wing chaplain's assistant, graduated in June from ALS. Sutton, who was Class Leader, also earned the Leadership Award at the five-week school held at Hanscom AFB, Mass. The award honors the student who made the most significant contributions to the overall success of the class.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Col. Belinda R. Morrone
 Lt. Col. Barry J. Cunha
 Lt. Col. Scott M. Halista
 Lt. Col. Allen L. Oshana
 Maj. Thomas G. Clark
 Maj. James R. Finneran
 SMSgt. Michael L. Goldberg
 SMSgt. Mark J. Pirog
 MSgt. Paul L. Cloutier
 MSgt. Richard L. Pease
 MSgt. George A. Perreault, Jr.
 MSgt. Charles W. Walker

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Steven A. Johnson
 Maj. Joseph G. Levesque
 Capt. Mary Jane Cahill
 Capt. William S. Wiecher
 SMSgt. Michael K. Barna

TSgt. Albert E. Dudley
 TSgt. Carlos Guerra
 TSgt. Timothy K. MacDonald
 TSgt. Scott D. Malone
 TSgt. Robert F. Metcalf
 TSgt. Colin C. Mulcahy
 TSgt. Donald R. Ricchi
 TSgt. Melissa Tavilla
 TSgt. Jeffrey G. Vanderpool
 SSgt. Richard K. Brady
 SSgt. David P. King
 SSgt. Ronald C. Phelps
 SrA. Theresa M. Needham

Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt. Jason M. Kennedy
 SSgt. Victor M. Markey
 SSgt. Robert H. McDermod
 SrA. Andrew J. Monahan
 SrA. Amber L. Ryals

Westover recruiters tap post-Sept. 11 'sense of service'

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Go where young people are and you will find that service is in fashion, according to Westover recruiters.

Values like service to country carry an added weight that they didn't have just a few years ago. Recruiters say they can see it in the faces of those who come through the door of their offices.

The men and women of the Westover Recruiting Office have a great package of benefits and training to offer. But, lately they are seeing the effectiveness of another great selling point. Potential new wing members want to serve in a large cause, to feel they are part of the national effort since 9/11.

"There has definitely been a cultural shift in the 18- to 24-year-old age range," said CMSgt. Ronald Tyson, Westover senior recruiter.



Tyson

"It's not about money. They talk about service. They want to do something to serve. It's a different mind set. We're trying to tap into this," he said of the efforts to bring prior and non-prior members into the Patriot Wing.

Recruiters who have seen people motivated by a sense of service and patriotism suspect that it may reflect a younger generation turning away from earlier materialism. In recognition, Air Force Reserve recruiting emphasizes camaraderie and personal participation in a great effort.

It tells new members that "First you are a part of it, then it becomes a part of you."

The esteem in which the military uniform is held is seen by the fact that the recommendations of family and teachers are considered the number one influence on why a new member comes to a recruiter. That's ahead of national advertising and referrals from reservists.

When Tyson goes to work in the morning, he knows that to a large extent the future of the Patriot Wing rests in the hands of his 10 recruiters spread across New England and New York.

There are almost 2,500 men and women in the 439th AW, but the wing is always looking for help. Today, one-third of wing members are eligible to retire, meaning potential gaps in our ranks.

The upsurge in patriotism and the higher profile of the military since the 9/11 terror attacks and the war against terrorism have helped the recruiters. But the recruiters know that the success of the wing depends on their success in getting out the word that there are opportunities here.

You would think that the Westover recruiters' job would be a breeze. They are standing at the door of some great opportunities that seem to be an easy sell.

They can offer a non-prior service person who has no skills a seat in a tech school to learn, for example, aircraft repair, medical or air transportation skills.

For some career fields, including aerial port, medical and maintenance, they can offer an \$8,000 enlistment bonus for both prior and non-prior service people. Very few civilian jobs offer an unskilled new person that kind of bonus.

The recruiters offer a package that includes pinning on senior airman stripes after tech school, which means UTA pay of about \$150, good pay for anyone just starting out on a new job.

Plus, the recruiters have several college assistance programs offering choices to students.

In the maintenance career field, the recruiters can offer prior and non-prior members the opportunity for ART positions.

These opportunities for training, educational aid and monthly paychecks come at a time when jobs are hard to find for many and college bills are soaring.

If you look at the benefits, you would think that the hardest part of being a recruiter would be keeping people from knocking down the door. Ironically, the upswing in the desire to serve may have cost the wing some new members.

Some potential new members have looked elsewhere rather than wait when there are delays for basic training or tech school slots.

Patriot Wing members are all in uniform voluntarily. They can help the recruiters by letting others know why they choose to wear the uniform. The "Get One" program offers recognition for those who help spread the word about service and benefits.

Tyson would like to see more wing members get to know the Westover recruiter in their community. It's good for the recruiter to feel supported and helps members. "If there's a slot in your shop, wouldn't you want to find someone you'd like to work with?" the senior recruiter said.

One thing Tyson and his recruiters share with potential new members is a sense of service.

"I've always enjoyed seeing a young person coming up through the ranks, knowing that I opened the door. It gives you a lot of satisfaction. People know you did a good job and got them in something they like. They bring people to you," Westover's senior recruiter said.

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

July UTA schedule

A UTA July 12-13

B UTA July 26-27



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